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Iowa Library Quarterly

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State Library Board

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BOOKS ARE BRIDGES

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

November 10-16

1946

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IOWA'S FIRST LIBRARY

In the annals of the State's history no episode is of more interest to librarians than the story of our first library.

Robert Lucas, first Governor of the Iowa territory left his home in Virginia to follow the trail of the pioneer. Selling their slaves and their lands in Virginia, the family went out to the western outpost—Ohio. Here they settled. Lucas became prominent politically and was elected as state representative, state senator and later Governor. At the end of his term as Governor he was urged to run for the U. S. Senate. His defeat was an acknowledged disappointment. Not long, thereafter, President Van Buren was urged to name Lucas as Governor of the Iowa Territory. Again the lure of the wilderness challenged Lucas. He left his beautiful home "Friendly Grove" on the Piketon Road to blaze the trail to the far West. The frontier had moved beyond the Mississippi—to Iowa.

On his way to Burlington, first capital of the Territory, he stopped at Cincinnati and here selected a Library for the seat of government. He had been allotted five thousand dollars for books. The selection of titles is a definite reflection of the Governor's appreciation of the needs of the Territory, as well as of his own convictions regarding the educational importance of a library.

The congressional grant specified that the books were particularly for the use of the Territorial legislature and officers of law of the Territory. Thus, in the collection were many titles on Jurisprudence. There were, in addition, standard works in history, science and literature.

To librarians, it is of particular interest that at this time, before there was a Cutter or a Dewey classification system, this collection of books was classified and catalogued by the Governor and his secretary, Theodore Sutton Parvin.

In his inaugural address, the Governor said, "Previous to leaving Ohio in June last, I made out a catalogue of such standard works as are deemed most important as the foundation of a public library, and put the catalogue in the hands of an agent in Cincinnati to make the purchase for me." It has been suggested that Lucas may have been assisted by Parvin and also, possibly, by McGuffy, editor of the famous **Eclectic Readers.**

Recognizing Parvin's appreciation of good books, Lucas named him as Territorial Librarian with instructions to catalogue the Library for use by the legislators. Parvin's classification is of interest:

Biography	45	volumes
Education	25	"
History	130	"
Jurisprudence	113	"
Reports—English, U. S. States	285	"
Laws	45	"
Medicine	34	"
Miscellaneous	150	"
Periodicals	317	"
Politics	172	"
Poetry	106	"
Science	95	"
Theology	57	"
Voyages and Travels	11	"
Total	1585	"

Parvin later immortalized himself in Iowa Library history as the organizer of the Iowa Masonic Library, in Cedar Rapids.

Parvin was succeeded as Librarian by Morgan Reno, whose appraisal of the Library was as follows:

"The present Library is comparatively small, the selection made by his excellency, Governor Lucas, is chaste and circumspect. A more appropriate selection with the same amount of funds could not well have been made."

It is remarkable, when so many records of the past have been lost, that an accurate history of this Library has come down to us. As librarians, we are indebted to Governor Lucas for his recognition of the importance of the cultural

values, and for his emphasis on education.

Some of the original volumes are preserved in the State Library. Through the generous cooperation of Blanche Smith, Librarian, a part of these will be loaned to "Plum Grove" the Lucas House in Iowa City which the State has restored as it was in 1844 when Lucas took up his residence here.

This house exemplifies the same architecture as the fine old capitol. It is of soft red brick, in simple, classic design.

The Iowa Library Association is assisting in the restoration in endeavoring to collect as many of the original titles as possible, for the Library of the Lucas House, a fitting memorial to our first library, and to Governor Lucas who gave recognition to the importance of the Public Library.

—Mrs. Addison Parker.

Source Material—Annals of Iowa
Iowa Journal of History and Politics
Brigham: A library in the making.

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PUTTING OURSELVES ACROSS

by

Evelyn F. Van Wagner
Rockwell City Public Library

(This talk, prepared for the District Library Meeting at Odebolt, was not given. It is printed here, hoping it may reach a larger audience. Ed.)

The title given to this talk—"Putting ourselves across" — naturally makes us think of bridges. However, we don't want to be like the Irishman who was asked to help a farmer who lived on the other side of the river which was crossed by a long covered bridge. When Pat started across he saw the opening way off at the other end of the bridge and he backed out. "Shure, and begorra," he said, "I'll not be going. I can get in this end all right, but I'd never get out through that little hole in the other end!"

One thing I remember from a speech on world organization by Clifton Fadiman this summer was this: one thing wrong with the world is that we so often invent, discover, or create something before we are ready for it or know how to use it as for example the atom bomb and world organization. I'm wondering if perhaps that isn't true about libraries. We dreamed them up, built them, and filled them with books, but do we know how to use them, or to be more specific, how are we going to bridge the gap between the books and the people? The people must be educated in the use of atomic power, the benefits of world organization, and the possibilities of the public library.

With your permission for one paragraph I am going to switch metaphors. How is your circulation these days? Is it slow and irregular? So is ours. One result of poor circulation is cold feet or inferiority complex. We may start wondering if our library is really any good or if we as librarians are really competent. Such thinking is defeatist and only leads to a worse state of affairs. Sometimes we are apt to

mistake the symptom for the disease. Poor circulation is a symptom of something else wrong and is not a disease in itself. We can say that it is a symptom of inflation, that people have too much money to spend; or a symptom of postwar restlessness, that so much time is spent in traveling that none is left for reading; or a symptom of prewar (or Wallace) isolationism, that with husbands and sons and brothers home from the wars the world has shrunk back to its prewar size. But the fact is that although these things affect the circulation, the real trouble is a weak, flabby, poorly functioning publicity program. Here are some remedies which may improve that circulation.

Lots can be said for radio, posters, and verbal advertising, but the fact remains that the newspaper is still the basic method of reaching the most people with the most effectiveness. "Readin' Right" has been appearing almost continuously for more than five and a half years and is still going strong, although sometimes it is a chore to get it written. But you've heard me talk about that before so all I'll say this time is that it does pay, and if you haven't already done so, why don't you start a library column of your own?

This fall when I realized that something must be done to get the books to the people or rather the people to the books, I selected the schools as having the greatest concentration of possible customers for the library. Cooperation between school and library had declined with a new superintendent and I determined to take the first steps in renewing it. So the first week of school I wrote a personal letter to each of the teachers, pointing out that cooperation between school and library would help both institutions, listing some of the best features of our library, offering my help in any way, and asking them to call. This didn't get results as quickly as I thought it should, which of course is a mistake easily made. We are impatient and expect people to become as excited about the library immediately as we are, but it is a slow process sometimes. Anyhow, I sat down and wrote a strong letter to the superintendent, telling him among other things that it was my observation that our high school graduates when they got into college regretted the lack of instruction in library usage, and that I would be glad to explain the use of the library to any or all classes.

I also wrote to the Board of Education telling them that as a tax-payer I wanted to get my money's worth and suggested that the library be used as though it were part of the school equipment, and asked that they do what they could to help the situation. Result: Four classes have already visited the library and I'm expecting others.

The next group of people representing a large potential of patrons is that group which, for one poor reason or another, never use the library at all. As far as they are concerned there might just as well not be any library. Perhaps they have a small library of their own, perhaps they don't like to read, perhaps they belong to a book club, or perhaps they take the Reader's Digest! But maybe they have just never had an invitation to come to the library. I selected twenty names from this too large group and sent each one a card as follows:

WHY DON'T YOU—

Get acquainted with your library?
Obtain a library card—free?
Read some of the latest books?
Reread a few old favorites?
Borrow a magazine or two?
Take an evening off for browsing?
Acquire the library habit?

THE LIBRARY IS YOURS:
WHY NOT USE IT?

You'll be welcome!
FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Rockwell City, Iowa

Special books for special people are another good source. On postcards I wrote a one-paragraph snappy

summary of books and mailed them to those people who I thought should be most interested in them. "Tomorrow's Trade" by Stuart Chase went to half-dozen business men; "General Education in a Free Society" went to the high school principal and board of education; "Man Againt Pain" by John Raper went to all doctors and dentists. This idea is going to be continued all through the winter.

Before the winter is out, if circulation doesn't increase, I may hide coupons in books which will entitle the readers to white shirts or nylons, as the case may be!

BOOK WEEK is the library's best time to advertise and if you lack original ideas, the R. R. Bowker Co. always has good ones and the Wilson Bulletin is excellent for that too. Get your mayor to issue a proclamation the week preceding and get it published in the paper. That would be a good time to write again to the teachers, the grade teachers and English teachers anyway. Make some good posters, or get someone to do it for you, using book jackets and put them into store windows and public buildings. Ask the ministerial society to urge the ministers to mention books in their sermons that week, and send cards to all club presidents announcing Book Week.

In our library we display all the new books during that week. The climax for the children comes on Saturday when we have the first of the winter's series of story hours and then the children may check out the new books. They like to be allowed to reserve books for themselves that week too. A tradition of our library is the library tea some afternoon of Book Week. The librarian arranges a good program of short book reviews by the most capable reviewers, these reviews telling just enough about the book to make the hearers want to read the books. Occasionally we ask one of the primary teachers to train two or three of her children to review a few of their new books. This always entrances the audience. After the program the ladies of the board are hostesses at an always beautifully arranged tea table. Then the guests are allowed to check out the new books. This affair is one of the social highlights of the winter in Rockwell City and it is considered "smart" to attend it. It is held in the clubroom in the basement of our library building.

All of us have people in our communities who have more influence than others. It is only politic to give these people a little super-service in the library and so perhaps put ourselves across not only with them but others whom they influence. This doesn't mean we must kowtow or be subservient to anyone.

However, in the final analysis, it is how we do our daily job that puts us across best. That deaf old man who always wants you to find a western he hasn't read, that club woman who wants material RIGHT NOW for tomorrow's paper, that child who can't find a book—these are the ones with whom we must day after day put ourselves across. The others can follow.

FARM BUREAU READING LIST 1946-1947

PEOPLE WORTH KNOWING

Wonderful Neighbor. *Croy, Homer. 1945, Harper, $2.50. Farm life in Missouri related by one who lived it.

Farmer Takes A Wife. Gould John. 1945, Morrow, $2.00. Life on a Maine farm was quite a change for the Boston bride, but she liked it.

No Time for Tears. Hughes, Lora Wood. 1946, Houghton, $3.00. Little Lora Wood, living on the Kansas plains in the '80's, decides to be a nurse—and a wonderful nurse she proved to be.

Cherokee Strip. *James, Marquis. 1945, Viking, $3.00. The author's early life in Enid, Oklahoma, up to the time when he set out to see the world.

Skinny Angel. Jones, Thelma. 1946, Whittlesey, $2.75. About the plump wife of a college professor who wished to be slender, and her adventures extending over many years and a good deal of the U. S.

The Egg and I. MacDonald, Betty. 1945, Lippincott, $2.75. Candid impressions of close-to-nature living on a chicken ranch in the northwest.

Starling of the White House. *Starling, E. W. 1946, Simon, $3.00. The safety and welfare of Wilson, Harding, Coolidge, Hoover and F. D. R. were in the hands of Starling of the White House secret service. His memories are entertaining and enlightening.

American Daughter. Thompson, Era B. 1946, Univ. of Ch. Pr., $3.00. A senior interviewer of the U. S. employment service tells what it has meant to her to be a colored person in this country. With surprising lack of bitterness she relates the poverty of her childhood and her experiences in obtaining an education and employment.

Son of the Wilderness. *Wolfe, L. M. 1945, Knopf, $3.00. This book presents John Muir, the boy and man, with special emphasis on his scientific achievements.

"MY NATIVE LAND"

Nation of Nations. Adamic, Louis. 1945, Harper, $3.50. Many nations have contributed to American culture. The author emphasizes the part each has played.

Washington Tapestry. Clapper, Olive E. 1946, Whittlesey, $2.75. Washington events and impressions through five administrations related by the wife of Raymond Clapper of radio and newspaper fame.

The Shenandoah. *Davis, Julia. 1945, Farrar, $2.50. (Rivers of America.) One should not miss a "river book" especially when the river is as famous as the Shenandoah.

Spin a Silver Dollar. Hannum, Alberta. 1945, Viking, $3.75. The Lippincott's, fresh from the university, buy Wide Ruins, a southwestern trading post, where they live until the war calls them. Many things interested them out there but none more than the Navaho Indian boy and his painting.

North Star Country. *Le Sueur, Meridal. 1945, Duell, $3.00. (American Folkways) History and description of Minnesota and Wisconsin and a good deal about the people who live there.

Fresh from the Hills. Lyon, Marguerite. 1945, Bobbs, $3.00. Life on the Ozark farm where the author and her husband go to live after she gives up her work in Chicago.

The Lost Woods. *Teale, Edwin Way. 1945, Dodd, $4.00. The joys derived from close association with nature presented by a naturalist.

Pardner of the Wind. *Thorp, Jack. 1945, Caxton, $4.00. Life on the ranges of the southwest a half century ago.

Sixty Million Jobs. *Wallace, Henry A. 1945, Simon, $1.00. Outline of program that could bring about full employment by 1950.

Saints and Strangers. Williston, George F. 1945, Reynal, $3.75. A history of the Pilgrim fathers, including their friends and enemies.

SOME GOOD NOVELS

Rooster Crows for Day. Burmen, Ben. 1945, Dutton, $2.50. The African adventures of a young Mississippi river pilot, Little Doc, who gladly returns home where he is overjoyed to become a member of the Cotton Valley Boosters' Club.

Great Horse Stories. *Cooper, Page. 1946, Doubleday, $3.50.

The Black Rose. Costain, Thomas. 1945, Doubleday, $3.00. The adventures of Walter of Gurnie who leaves Oxford to travel in the Far East during the 13th century when such travels were hazardous.

Country Heart. Dick, Isabel. 1946, Crowell, $2.75. Returning to the scene of her childhood proved to be more than an escape from an uncongenial way of life for Charlotte Acton.

The Ghost and Mrs. Muir. Dick, R. A. 1945, Ziff-Davis, $2.00. An understanding ghost brings happiness to Mrs. Muir after the death of her husband.

Lord Hornblower. *Forester, C. S. 1946, Little, $2.50. The fifth novel about Horatio Hornblower will be welcomed by all who have followed his adventures to date.

The Silver Darlings. *Gunn, Neil. 1945, Stewart, $3.00. This story of one family in a fishing village of Scotland where herrings (silver darlings) provide a living for the people, is characterized by unusually good writing.

Any Number Can Play. *Heth, Edward H. 1946, Harper, $2.50. A poignant story with an unusual setting, a gambling house.

The Peacock Sheds His Tail. Hobart, Alice T. 1945, Bobbs, $2.75. The history of three generations of an aristocratic Mexican family.

Storm Tide. Ogilvie, Elizabeth. 1945, Crowell, $2.75. A continuation of **High Tide at Noon.**

The Fields. Richter, Conrad. 1946, Knopf, $2.50. Pioneer story of early Ohio.

David the King. Schmitt, Gladys. 1946, Dial, $3.00. A novel about King David, based on the Old Testament story.

On This Star. Sorensen, Virginia. 1946, Reynal, $2.75. Temple City, Utah, is the setting for this novel about Mormon life and what it does to some people.

Four Graces. Stevenson, D. E. 1946, Rinehart, $2.50. Four daughters of an English rector do their part in carrying on during the war.

The Gauntlet. Street, James. 1945, Doubleday, $2.75. The experiences of a young Baptist minister and his wife in their first church in a small Missouri town.

The White Tower. *Ullman, James Ramsey. 1945, Lippincott, $3.00. The attempt to climb an inaccessible mountain peak by six people, each with his own reason for making the ascent.

My Indian Family. Wernher, Hilda. 1945, John Day, $2.75. The adaptation to Hindu life and ideals by an Austrian woman whose

daughter had married a Hindu physicist.

Friendly Persuasion. West, Jessamyn. 1945, Harcourt, $2.50. Clever sketches about a family of Quakers in Indiana in the 1860's.

HAVE YOU READ?

Dostoyevski, Fedor—Crime and punishment.
Eliot, George—Romola.
Hardy, Thomas—Tess of the d'Urbervilles.
Hawthorne, Nathaniel—Scarlet letter.
Howells, W. D.—Rise of Silas Lapham.
Morley, Christopher — Parnasses on wheels.
Tolstoi, L. N.—Anna Karenina.

*Appeals to men.

THE GREATEST LACK

by **R. J. Blakely**

Editorial writer on the Register and Tribune, Des Moines, Iowa

(Continued from July)

Probably the two most distinctive features of the modern world are the coming into importance of the wishes of the masses of people and the development of systematic science.

The social movement which we know as democratic-capitalism, which I shall call democracy, developed and used science first. For a time the social and physical movements coincided. They worked together horizontally for a wider extension of government and economy and vertically for a broadening of participation in and benefit from society.

But then they parted company. The scientific movement continued faster toward the same goals. The democratic movement stopped with the national state, the middle class, and the white race.

Frictions arose between conflicting tendencies of the social and physical movements on all three fronts. Science demanded larger economic and social units; nationalism not only stopped consolidating people and resources into larger units but began to break up some units into smaller states. Science demanded broader purchasing power and greater production; middle-class capitalism failed to solve either inadequate purchasing power, unemployment or business cycles. Science does not recognize race as a significant factor in technology; racism helped create imperialism abroad and discrimination at home.

Partly in protest against the failures of the democratic system, the communist-statist system, which I shall call communism, was inaugurated. This system responded with considerable success to several challenges which the democratic system had failed to meet—nationalism, class distinction, racism and unemployment. It exalted science and participation by the masses of the people, but under strict control. It denied to the individual in society the freedom which it urged upon him in the laboratory. It made no provision for its leaders' being wrong or for its being intermediate in historical development.

The democratic states did not cooperate with each other, nor did they and the communist state cooperate, nor did either system give help and guidance to the peoples who belonged to neither. Overhead clashed the swords of nationalism and technology, honing each other. Beneath boiled the tensions of race and class.

Out of this chaos rose fascism—triumphant in several states but dormant in every country and in every human heart. Fascism accepted science. It adopted the worst and rejected the best features of the two conflicting social systems. From democracy it took racism, nationalism and class distinction. From communism it took tyrannical control over thought and behavior.

The democratic states were dominant in the world and it was therefore necessary for fascism to beguile them. To the dispossessed it promised security; to the disaffected, revenge; to the ambitious, distinction; to the established, protection from communism.

So, almost too late and not until each nation had been attacked, the democratic nations and the communist nation came into negative alliance against these perverted caricatures of themselves.

Some of us had high hopes in the war.

Because we hated it so, because we

saw its long roots, because we wanted it to have meaning particularly for those classes which carry the heavier end of the cross, we hoped that the war would result in a removal of at least some of the conditions which produced it.

We should not be embarrassed even now to list those hopes.

We hoped that the fundamental community of concern for human welfare between democracy and communism would be made clear to the citizens of both.

We hoped that the groups in both communism and democracy which were denied equal partnership in society would out of sheer necessity be called upon to help fight the war and would thus be permanently promoted.

We hoped that out of this same necessity for help, the exploited in all lands would play a new role and win a new status.

Those hopes have been fulfilled to only a small degree. The postwar world in essential structure and content is the pre-war world — "only more so." Certain pacifists and isolationists, noting this, smugly say, "I told you so!" But as they showed us no alternative to fighting the war then they can claim no vindication now.

Some wars have precipitated fundamental changes, even among victor nations. Why did not this war do so —the greatest, the most nearly total and global?

I suggest that one important reason is that China, Russia and Britain had to fight too hard and that the United States did not have to fight hard enough.

Russia, to specify, suffered and exerted so that much of her human and world spirit has been transmuted into nationalistic fear and pride.

The United States won the war on its fat, without getting into more than moderately good shape. We entered the war with none of the issues of twentieth century democracy settled — neither political control over economic power, nor the need for a service as opposed to a policeman state; nor the right of the citizen to economic and social democracy; nor collective bargaining; nor the equality of both sexes and all races. Yet even when we entered the war we were concluding the longest "reform" era in our national history and already we had begun to settle back into a period of "consolidation." We stepped into the war backward, warding off blows to the groin. We won the war without resolving our domestic disputes, without discovering our ultimate capacity or the reason we were fighting, and without any real sacrifice except by a relatively few individuals. Most of us, though we worked hard, lived more luxuriously than ever before.

I have asked myself whether the United States would have progressed further toward reform if we had suffered a longer, harder war. I have decided no—not unless the war had been fought on our own soil, in which case the world would have been mobilized against us and victory would have been improbable.

In one way—and perhaps only one —the war made a greater demand upon the American people than upon the people of any other major warring nation—that is, in imagination. We had to fight without seeing or even clearly conceiving possible the devastation of our own homes. To have suffered more casualties overseas would not by itself, I think, have forced us to the housecleaning to which the British people were forced.

During those days when, whether we realized it or not, America was losing the war—1942 and early 1943 —an experiment which should be significant to this group was conducted in the Office of War Information. It was under the leadership of Lyman Bryson and several members of this audience played major roles in it. Through an adult educaton program we tried to draw into the war those groups of our people who are denied full participation in our society.

We tried to explain the real issues of the war, particularly to the American Negroes and to foreign language minorities.

We tried to stimulate pro and con discussion of the war among all groups.

We tried to reach the minorities which are out of the main standardized cultural stream. We tried to do this through their music, customs and art.

This was the part of the Office of War Information upon which congress focussed its criticism at the end of the first year.

The congressional critics were against discussion of controversial issues becaue they did not believe that the isues were controversial.

They feared our informing minority groups.

They regarded all ideological treatment of the war as subversive.

They were contemptuous of attemps to interpret the war culturally to those who could be reached in no other way.

In this program we got no support from the administration. Already it was far in the swingback of "compromise"—which meant making concessions to bribe the dominant groups to continue supporting the war.

Winston Churchill truly said once that as defeat retreated and victory advanced, the war became less "ideological." Another way of saying this is that as it became less necessary to remove the inefficiency of injustice, less was removed.

Well, we won the war. What did we win? Time—more precious than uranium—time to tackle the lethal problems which produced the war **if we would only make use of it.**

But—and here is the joke—in winning the war we shortened the time which we won.

History offers no parallel to the alignment of social systems and national power which we have at the conclusion of the war.

The world is divided into three parts—one system whose essence is the supremacy of the individual which revolves around the United States; another whose essence is the supremacy of the state whose mass is the Soviet Union; and a third part unformed as yet for which the first two are in competition.

The two systems are in competition not because their peoples or leaders want them to be, but because each is on trial.

They are on trial because for the first time in history the entire human race is on the march at the same time. Everywhere man has the awareness that he can influence his own fate by his own activity. Incrustations of custom, ignorance, superstition and authority which have held human beings obedient for so many centuries have been broken. Humans everywhere mean to try to use science to get above starvation and to use government to run their own affairs.

Of the two ways of doing this—the individualist and the statist—neither has worked ideally. The members of each system fear the other and in self-defense the leaders of each seek to extend military and political control over the contested areas. So the members of these areas, groping for a way to realize their aims, ask which way they should adopt and which system they should ally themselves with.

The central question at the moment is whether the individualist system and the statist system can cooperate, not only in their relations with each other, but also in their relations with the rest of the world.

Even though they cooperate, they will still be in competition, for their own peoples and the peoples of the rest of the world will be comparing them.

The competition between the two can take either a malignant or a beneficent form.

The malignant form, in which each seeks to dominate the rest of the world so as to gain an advantage over the other, can lead only to war with no hope of victory for either but instead with the danger of extinction to both.

The beneficient form of competition is one in which each side dis-

covers more and more ground for trust and cooperation with the other while each competes peaceably in demonstrating the advantages of its system at home and in offering help to the disputed areas so as to attract them.

This second kind of competition—to attract instead of to dominate—would pay off in peace and security. But immediately it would cost more—in attention, in money, in goods. It would have to be expressed in such programs as scheduled independence, agrarian reforms, agricultural science, industrialization, improved medical care and sanitation. Most of the money and equipment for these world programs would have to come from the United States at first. The United States might even have to lend money to Russia itself to help direct competition into friendly channels and to help influence the development of Russia toward peaceful enterprise.

The demand upon the United States would not be simply external, either. As the heart of the individualist system and as the nation with the greatest pretense and prestige, we would have to improve the domestic workings of our system in many ways.

We must recognize that although the competition between the democratic and communist systems need not be malignant, in the months since V-J Day it has tended to become so.

On the part of Russia we cannot ignore a series of moves which have provoked alarm from the other great powers and disillusioned the peoples of small states and colonial areas. I do not believe that the Russian leaders have plans for world conquest or revolution. But their behavior reveals them to be provincial, nationalistic, suspicious and clumsy. Neither during the war nor since victory have they let their people learn anything which they did not want them to know. This is explainable—but it is also ominous.

On our part internationally we are failing to meet the world famine through neglect of the necessary discipline upon ourselves. The loan to Britain is receiving so much blind prejudice that more ambitious but equally advisable loans are probably out of the question. And although our government is showing some skill in blocking the awkward moves of Russia, it is apparently offering no leadership in the positive solution of the situations which lead to confiict.

Domestically we are in an unlovely period. The lust for nylons when one out of four persons in the world is starving; the organized attempt to kill or castrate the OPA during the period of highest production in our history on the argument that price control is hampering production—an attempt which may succeed because while each group wants prices controlled for other groups, no group is unqualifiedly for control of its own; the obstructing of an adequate housing program and of price ceilings on existing houses — these require a strong stomach and do not bode well.

With regard to the welcome given returned veterans, I am reminded of Pavlov's experiment. Some members of various groups, notably the clothing and housing industries, have developed a conditioned reflex so that at the sight of a discharge button their saliva begins to flow.

To one returning to the United States after some time in another part of the world and in an entirely different kind of life, two impressions are strong. Our domestic groups are struggling with each other for a stake far above mere money—for power—without standards to guide them or fear of consequence to restrain them. Second, the profit motive unqualified by any other motive seems without either limit or conscience.

Thus, looking at the two nations, I see little evidence that they are entering into that kind of competition which could be friendly and productive—competition for human welfare.

If we continue on the present road, I do not expect war between the

democracies and communism for a number of years—not, let us say, until enough time has passed to make an exceptionally good war. In the event of this war, it is fashionable to predict the extinction of the human race. Though I do not think that the devastation of an atomic war can easily be exaggerated, I do not expect that it would wipe out the whole race. But it may destroy the warring nations as significant societies.

And should it not? Can we, who have laid low Germany and Japan because they could not fill a peaceful function in the world—can we escape our own logic and morality? It may be that the responses of both the democratic and communistic societies are inadequate and that therefore they must pass as other civilizations have passed which had no creative answers for the recurrent challenges which confronted them.

But the human race, I am convinced, will survive to make another try. In crannies, in small nations, in colonies, in far-off corners of the globe there will be humans who are now despised who will have energy, ambition, awareness and hope—and relative innocence of our crimes and follies.

Their rise will probably be swift. In addition to the opportunities left them by the removal of those nations which oppressed or obstructed them, they will have two priceless heritages — knowledge of science, which is now as universal as the human race, and the example of our awful and unnecessary failure.

I used to consider talk like this a taking refuge in some future endeavor which I could not believe in if I could not believe in the endeavor of my own time. But I have been forced to look full in the face the probability that our civilization may fall. And I no longer regard a projection of hope to other peoples and later times as escapism. Instead I think it is a transcendant faith in the human race.

As a civilization matures its problems tend to change from external to internal, from physical to spiritual. Once the difficulty of migrating Americans was how to get up a mountain or across a river. Now it is how to get through a traffic jam or avoid a collision.

Man is just now coming into the young maturity of his knowledge of the physical world. Most of this has been learned in the past four hundred years. This knowledge changes his problem from how to get enough from nature in order to live into how to get along with himself well enough to live. Perhaps he has not had time enough to adjust his primeval personal and social habits to his new problem. Perhaps he needs to receive a few lessons.

The temptation is strong to identify our community and our time with all of humanity. My faith in the potentialities of our species makes me hope that what may be failing is merely particular individuals, groups and ideas. Just as we have solved problems which had baffled other times, others after us will conquer those which defeated us.

And though this time we and our fellows may perish, let us ask what is really so different from other catastrophes about the one which threatens now. Most of mankind has always been in misery and want. Floods, wars, diseases, famine have taken hundreds of millions of lives at all periods of history and never more than in our own time. What is the essential difference then? Is it not merely that this time it is likely to happen to us?

We who have been so indifferent or philosophical to the universal waste of humanity suddenly become concerned when our own skins are threatened. I am reminded of Ensign Nicholas Rostov in War and Peace, who, meeting the realities of war for the first time, flees from the field incredulous, wondering, "Why are they trying to kill me, me whom everybody loves?"

I do not mean to underrate the importance of our own, and particularly not my own extinction. But when one is sufficiently doubtful about his own group then one looks more

widely for immortality.

And this is not merely the consolations of philosophy. Our democratic faith teaches us that the ultimate victory of our cause is not limited to the present, or to the United States, or to the middle class, or to the white race, or even (can this be true?) to ourselves individually, but is committed to man himself.

(To be continued)

AN OPEN LETTER TO LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Dear Library Trustee:

You are an important person, holding an important position. There was something about you that recommended you for an appointment to the library board of your community, a board entrusted with looking after the welfare and service of an important institution, the Public Library.

This library, ranking with the school and the church as a cultural and moral center, depends on you and your attitude for success. It can not exceed the vision and wisdom of the librarian and those who serve as its trustees.

So, with your honor, come responsibilities. Have you forgotten that? Are you willing to continue one with the other? Unless you are sure that you are able and willing to discharge the responsibilities of a library trustee, it is only fair to allow the mayor and council to find someone who has the ability and the willingness.

Our district library meetings (just half over as this goes to press) have been successful in many ways, as indicated by the large attendance and spirited discussions. From the point of view of trustee attendance they have been somewhat disappointing.

Why have trustees, who ought to be constantly informed about libraries and their work, not found it convenient to attend these meetings? Why have they not arranged transportation for the librarian and staff so they could be there? Why have they not announced that the library would be closed that day? Schools close when teachers go to meetings, why not libraries?

One must be informed about his job. The shortest route to being informed about libraries and the work they should do is to meet with other librarians and trustees and take part in the discussions. We are all looking for short cuts these days.

Transportation is difficult in Iowa, especially in and out of the smaller towns. Not many librarians have cars of their own. Many trustees have. Why not make it a responsibility **of the library board** to see that transportation to library meetings is afforded to the librarian? There were at least two instances in the four meetings that already have been held where librarians could not appear for assigned parts on the program because there was no way to get there!

One can not go about attending the nine district meetings without being impressed anew with the fact that these communities having the best libraries also have the best library boards. Here all the members turn out and take part in this library activity. An intelligent, alert, interested library board will not stop with attending the monthly board meeting. They go on and identify themselves with all worthwhile library activities in their own community and in the library world.

Your community needs a stronger library; the Iowa Library Association needs the interest and help of all the trustees. Here is a chance to extend your influence and serve your local community better. Don't miss it.

Yours for better service,

Blanche A. Smith

TRUSTEE OPINION ON QUESTIONS OF LIBRARY POLICY

The Trustees' Division of the American Library Association conducted a survey of trustee opinion on pertinent library questions immediately preceding the Buffalo Conference in June, 1946. 422 answers to the questionnaire were received.

Trustees were in favor of libraries expanding their information services (331 yes to 58 no) feeling that such services would attract a large number of those who do not have the reading habit. They apparently did not agree with librarians and trustees who believe it is best to stick to printed materials, although one trustee queried, "How else is such service given?"

Again, trustees agreed (331 to 81) that public libraries of all sizes should make a special effort to serve the business and industrial needs of their communities as a method of keeping the library in touch with community needs. A trustee commented in his reply, "We have been developing the service (business and industrial) for over twenty years with very gratifying results in commendation from the public." Other trustees qualified their affirmative statements in that they believed information services should be enlarged only if funds and staff permit without skimping on basic services.

To the question, "Should public libraries put greater emphasis on educational books and services and less on escape literature?", 301 trustees answered "yes" while 81 said "no". Those answering in the affirmative felt that more value would result in the long run from emphasis on serious books. Many, however, felt that libraries should be careful not to neglect the interests of the ordinary reader. One trustee found it impossible to answer the question without qualification. He said, "Surely it is impossible to buy every expensive book which will be used by one individual or a very few persons. Just as surely one should try to help study groups and serious readers. It seems to me that in a small library, a limited number of special things should be planned for purchase each year. After all, the reader of escape literature deserves consideration".

About 330 trustees felt that it would be wise for library boards, out of public funds and as an investment, to pay expenses of at least one trustee (in addition to one or two members of the staff) to occasional library meetings. Again, trustees felt that this measure would depend on the financial situation of the library. Generally, the answers indicated that staff members are more necessary than board members at library meetings.

DISTRICT LIBRARY MEETINGS

Nine district meetings were scheduled for librarians and friends. Three of them were two-day workshops. The following is the schedule:

September 25-6 ..... Oelwein
Blanche A. Sherman, chairman

September 27 ..... Britt
Beth Annis, chairman

October 2 ..... Odebolt
Pearl Phillips, chairman

October 3-4 ..... Spencer
Lora Shipley, chairman

October 9 ..... Boone
Golda Ausbury, chairman

October 11 ..... Toledo
Alice Story , chairman

October 17-18 ..... Ottumwa
Elizabeth Lilly and Irma Hopley, chairmen

October 23 ..... Chariton
Elizabeth Michener, chairman

October 25 ..... Clarinda
Hope Shackson, chairman

NOTICE

Brown leather notebook lost at Iowa State Library Meeting in Des Moines. Contained notes on "Book Selection and Discarding." No name in book. Finder please notify Lelia S. Wilson, Fairfield, Iowa.

LIBRARIES AT THE STATE FAIR

Poweshiek County women were in charge of an exhibit "What rural library service should mean." The exhibit demonstrated what the present library service is and what the possibilities are for the future. Mrs. Maurice Boatman and Mrs. M. F. Farmer were in charge of the booth which attracted much attention.

The booth in the Educational Building was arranged and manned by the State Traveling Library. The emphasis was on 100 years of progress in Iowa libraries. The film "Libraries on wheels" was shown three times a day and was a feature of interest for hundreds of Fair visitors.

PERSONALS

Mrs. Kate Cummings, assistant in Grinnell College library, has resigned and accepted a position as librarian for the U. S. Army. She will sail for Japan soon.

Jessie Ferguson, of the Iowa State Teachers College staff, has resigned the position as reference librarian and is living with a nephew in Ashland, Virginia. She was a member of the staff for 21 years.

Fyrne Haugen, of Seattle, Washington, is school librarian in Clinton, succeeding Edna Bibby who resigned to accept a position in the University of Dubuque. Miss Haugen took her work in library science at the University of Washington.

Irene Keefner has gone to New York where she will be librarian of the Pan American airways at La Guardia field.

Maxwell O. White, head of the serial department of the University libraries from 1940 to 1946, received his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University August 7, 1946. Mr. White has resigned to accept a position as Assistant Professor of History at the Northern State Teachers College, Aberdeen, S. D.

William Wood has been appointed to the Legislative Committee of the I. L. A. Mr. Wood is president of the Albia Library Board. He was a member of the House of Representatives, 1936-40.

NEWS FROM IOWA LIBRARIES

Ames—Iowa State College—Lois Johnson has been appointed permanent loan librarian. She comes from the University of Idaho. She received her library training at University of Michigan.

Dorothy Mae Swanson, of University of Minnesota Library School, is Order librarian.

Barbara Ann Gates, of Simmons library school, has joined the cataloging department.

Burlington—Bessie Ried Shipp, supervisor of the children's work, has resigned and will go to California October 31. Miss Shipp came to Iowa from Scranton, Pa.

Cedar Falls—Iowa State Teachers College—Mary Dietrich, formerly of the catalog staff, has been appointed reference librarian succeeding Jessie Ferguson, resigned. Miss Dietrich has been on the staff since 1930. She is a graduate of the Columbia School of Library Science.

Des Moines—Drake University—Helen Reynolds has been appointed assistant in technical processes. Verniel Manton, circulation assistant and Mrs. W. L. Bertholf secretary of the library.

Fort Dodge—Following the resignation of Mrs. Winifred Shive Fairbanks, whose husband returned from service, Dolores E. Schermern has been appointed as assistant.

Grinnell — College Library — New appointments to the library staff are Betty Dumbault of the Waterloo Public Library staff, and Mrs. Winifred Standing of the Davenport staff.

Iowa City—University Libraries—Sylvia Noffsinger, St. Louis 1927, who has been reference assistant in the serial department of the State University of Iowa Library has been appointed head of the department,

succeeding Dr. Maxwell O. White.

Mrs. Elinor B. Tucker, A. B. Denver 1940, has rejoined the staff of the library as one of the circulation librarians, succeeding Eda Zwinggi who resigned to accept the position of librarian of the College of Law at the University. During the interim since Mrs. Tucker was formerly an assistant in this department, she has been a member of the staff of the Waco, Texas, Public Library, and of the University of Nebraska Library.

Mrs. Margaret Spangler Shipley, B. A. Texas 1941, has been appointed assistant in the serial department. Mrs. Shipley was formerly on the staff of Southern Methodist University at Dallas, Texas.

Jefferson—Ruby Washburn, who received her degree in library science at Wisconsin University, assumed the duties of librarian September 1. She succeeds Nellie Hopper who was librarian for 25 years and who continued for a year after she resigned the position in order to give the board time to find a successor.

Lamoni—The library float won first place in the Fourth of July parade and again in the County Centennial celebration.

Minburn—The Minburn Woman's Club has purchased a building which will house the library more adequately than the quarters which they have used for the past three years.

Ogden—Mrs. O. D. Braker has been named librarian. She was formerly a teacher in the local schools.

Perry—Mrs. Janet Arie Roe, of Cedar Rapids, assumed duties as librarian September 1. Mrs. Roe served as supervisor of the Cedar Rapids school libraries and was librarian at Tipton during a leave of absence of Mayme Walter.

Quimby—The Quimby Quorum 4-H club has organized a community library which is being operated by volunteers from the group.

Rock Rapids—The library was closed 17 days this summer for a complete redecorating job. Much pleasure is expressed by the public over the two-tone blue coloring and tangerine red.

Storm Lake—Buena Vista College—Kathleen Dooley, of Meridan, Connecticut, has been appointed librarian.

Waterloo — Margaret Nordholm started her duties as librarian September 15. Miss Nordholm came from Madison, Wisconsin, where she had been chief of circulation since 1939. She graduated from the library school of the University of Minnesota. Her former experience had been in Minneapolis and Coleraine, Minnesota.

Webster City—Dorothy Duckworth of Ames has joined the staff of the Kendall Young library. Miss Duckworth was graduated from Iowa State College and took her master of science degree at the State University.

Woodbine—Mrs. C. L. Beebe, librarian since 1928, has resigned her position.

NECROLOGY

Mrs. Hollowell, member of the Fort Madison library board for the last twelve years, died July 12, 1946. She was vice-president and chairman of the book committee.

Mrs. Irving C. Johnson, well known in Iowa library circles, died in her sleep June 28, 1946. Mrs. Johnson had been a trustee of the Oskaloosa library for forty years and served as president of the Iowa Library Association in 1918-1919.

Mrs. Helen Pangburn, a member of the Northwood board for many years, died at her home July, 1945, after a lingering illness. Her services to the library have been greatly missed.

Mrs. Julia Trustem, for many years a valued member of the Northwood library board, died at the home of her daughter at Hopkins, Minnesota, December 24, 1945. She had served as the first librarian for thirteen years and was always loyal to the interests of the library.

IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

By LOUISE HOVDE MORTENSEN

Pretty pictures, little chairs
That the children know are theirs,
Many shelves of story books
To be read in cozy nooks.

"Peter Rabbit" for the smallest,
"Men of Iron" for the tallest,
While the older boys who read
Follow where adventures lead.

Follow down the airy trail
Of the men who fly the mail,
Hear the river steam-boat chug,
Travel on the magic rug.

Children of another land,
"Otto of the Silver Hand,"
Boys on "A Norwegian Farm,"
"Heidi" with her Alpine charm.

Here's a row of all the "Twin Books,"
Poetry in lovely thin books,
All the books for me to read,
Everything that I might need.

And the sun will often spill
Sunshine on the window sill,
Shining in the city's gloom
Brightest in the children's room.

—From **The Hawkeye Lyric**, Published by the members of the Alpha (Des Moines) Chapter of the Iowa State Poetry Society.